

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 BIB-01 ACDA-07 AF-08 /092 W

----- 106440

R 241510Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8316

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 05779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL-MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS: SOARES

TAKES TOUGH LINE

REF: (A) LISBON 5552 (DTG 161412Z AUG 76);

(B) LISBON 5504 (DTG 121710Z AUG 76);

(C) LISBON 5646 (DTG 181619Z AUG 76)

SUMMARY: MARIO SOARES IN "NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR"

INTERVIEW EXPRESSED HIS DETERMINATION TO MOVE AHEAD WITH
UNPOPULAR ECONOMIC MEASURES. SOARES CALLED THE COMMUNIST
PARTY "STALINIST" AND BESET WITH INTERNAL DIVISIONS --
A THEME WHICH STRUCK A RAW NERVE IN THE PAST. SOARES

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INVITED CHINA TO SEND A DELEGATION TO PORTUGAL. COL

BEIRAO WAS SWORN-IN AS SOUTHERN REGION MILITARY COMMANDER.
END SUMMARY.

1. SOARES HITS PCP: SOARES INTERVIEW WITH "NOUVEL
OBSERVATEUR" WAS PUBLISHED AUGUST 24. HIGHLIGHTS
FOLLOW:

-- "YOU CAN'T EAT IDEOLOGY": CONCERN WITH IDEOLOGY
IS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE NEED TO END LOSSES OF
NATIONALIZED FIRMS, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, REDUCE
ABSENTEEISM, AND EXPAND THE ECONOMY TO RAISE
THE STANDARD OF LIVING. UNPOPULAR MEASURES ARE NECESSARY;
PORTUGAL CANNOT CONTINUE TO LIVE BEYOND ITS MEANS.

-- STALINIST PCP: IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE FRENCH LEFT
TO UNDERSTAND THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS' POLICY TOWARD
THE PCP. HOWEVER, THE PCP IS A STALINIST PARTY
WHICH DOES NOT BELIEVE IN EUROCOMMUNISM AND HAS
DEMONSTRATED ITS DESREGARD FOR DEMOCRATIC RULES.
-- COMMUNIST DIVISIONS: IN NOT INTRODUCING A MOTION
TO REJECT THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, THE PCP DISPLAYED
MORE FEAR OF WORSENING ITS ISOLATION THAN OF BEING
OVERTAKEN BY THE FAR LEFT. ALVARO CUNHAL'S POLICIES
HAVE FAILED COMPLETELY, AND HE HAS BEEN HUMILIATED.
WHILE CUNHAL WILL NOT CHANGE, THERE ARE SERIOUS TENSIONS
WITHIN THE PCP.

-- RIGHTIST REVIVAL: ULTRA-RIGHTIST, CONSPIRATORIAL
ACTIVITIES ARE CERTAINLY ON THE UPSWING. BUT THE
GOVERNMENT IS ALERT TO THE SITUATION AND IN THE
PRESENT ATMOSPHERE THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN.
DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED AND HAS POPULAR
SUPPORT.

-- SPINOLA: SPINOLA'S RETURN HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE
EFFECT IN PORTUGAL. SPINOLA'S POLITICAL-MILITARY
CREDIT IS USED UP.

-- FOREIGN POLICY: PORTUGAL'S FOREIGN POLICY REMAINS
ONE OF OPENING UP TO THE WORLD WITHOUT DISCRIMINATIONS,
INITIATIVES IN FAVOR OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE,
FAITHFULNESS TO INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND
TRADITIONAL ALLIANCES (NATO), A GOOD MEIGHBOR POLICY,
NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES,
AND SPECIAL ATTENTION FOR THE THIRD WORLD, PARTICULARLY
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PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING AFRICA. THE GOVERNMENT HAS
ACCENTUATED PORTUGAL'S EUROPEAN OPTION IN THE CONTEXT
OF PORTUGAL'S INTEREST IN EEC MEMBERSHIP.

2. SOARES INVITES PRC: PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES
INVITED THE PRC PREMIER TO SEND A CHINESE DELEGATION
TO PORTUGAL IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED
PORTUGUESE VISIT TO CHINA. SOCIALIST LEADERS

STRESSED THAT THIS INVITATION CONSTITUTED ONLY ONE MORE STEP IN THE LONG PROCESS TOWARD ESTABLISHING RELATIONS, GIVEN CAUTIOUS CHINESE ATTITUDES (REF A).

3. SOUTHERN REGION COMMANDER: COL ARTUR BAPTISTA BEIRAO WAS NAMED COMMANDER OF THE SOUTHERN MILITARY REGION AUGUST 23, AND WAS SWORN-IN AUGUST 24. BEIRAO REPLACES PEZARAT CORREIA WHO OPTED TO GIVE UP HIS COMMAND IN ORDER TO STAY ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC). BEIRAO, 51, WAS WORKING IN THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. HE IS AN INFANTRY OFFICER WHO WAS PROMOTED TO COLONEL IN SEPTEMBER 1975.

4. PRESSURES FROM THE NORTH: MILITARY TENSION DISPLAYED ITSELF IN YET ANOTHER FORM. A MEETING OF NORTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS AUGUST 20 RESULTED IN AN EFFORT TO BLOCK THE NOMINATION OF COL GARCIA DOS SANTOS TO THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL VACANCY CREATED BY PIRES VELOSO'S RESIGNATION (REF B). RC SPOKESMAN SOUSA E CASTRO CRITICIZED THE NORTHERN COMMANDERS'S "PRESSURE TO SIDETRACK THE ESTABLISHED PROCESS." GARCIA DOS SANTOS, THE HEAD OF THE PRESIDENT'S MILITARY HOUSEHOLD, IS BELIEVED TO BE EANES'S CHOICE FOR THE RC POSITION.

5. COMMENT: SOARES'S TOUGH REMARKS ON THE ECONOMY RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY HERE AND WERE CLEARLY INTENDED TO COMMUNICATE HIS DETERMINATION TO PRESS AHEAD WITH TOUGH MEASURES. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS SCHEDULED TO MEET TODAY AND IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE SOME SPECIFIC MEASURES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IN CITING INTERNAL COMMUNIST PARTY DIVISIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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SOARES RETURNED TO A THEME WHICH STRUCK A RAW NERVE DURING HIS PRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (REF C). CARLUCCI

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